



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
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TREES AND SHRUBS VITAL TO WILDLIFE WINTER SURVIVAL

With winter's icy north winds and subzero temperatures just a few weeks away, the presence of trees and woody shrubs will offer welcome protection to wildlife and songbirds.

Trees, especially conifers, provide critical winter cover for many of Iowa's game and non-game species. If densely planted, conifer trees act as "Wildlife Hotels" by greatly reducing wind chill temperatures and allowing wildlife to conserve their body heat. In addition, conifers allow wildlife hiding cover from predators. Conifers ideally suited to Iowa's growing conditions are red cedar, white pine, red pine, jack pine, Norway spruce and white spruce.

Broadleaf shrubs and small trees with dense low hanging branches also provide winter cover for wildlife and provide winter food sources. Shrubs and small trees such as serviceberry, the dogwoods, chokecherry, wild plum, elderberry, arrowwood, nannyberry, buttonbush and highbush cranberry are excellent choices for Iowa wildlife. As snow becomes deep and blows into drifts, upright woody vegetation continues to provide winter food, browse, and cover which is often critical to wildlife winter survival.

To provide winter cover in future years, trees and shrub species can be planted this spring. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources State Forest Nursery sells trees and shrubs for wildlife plantings. The price is \$0.25 to \$0.45 per seedling with a minimum order of 500 seedlings. For smaller acreage plantings, the 20 seedling Songbird packet is available at \$20 and various 200 seedling wildlife habitat packets are available at \$90.

To order seedlings or for more information, call the nursery at 1-800-865-2477 or connect to www.iowatreeplanting.com. New this year is direct shipping to your door next

spring. The State Forest Nursery orders can be placed on our internet order form. The State Forest Nursery does accept Visa and Mastercard.

If you have an area of open land, consider a tree and shrub planting to help Iowa's wildlife species survive the coming of winters for the future.

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TROUT HEADING TO SUMMERSET NOV. 22

INDIANOLA – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will stock 1,000 rainbow trout in the 59-acre lake at Summerset State Park around 12 p.m., on Nov. 22.

Trout will be stocked in January and again in March.

Summerset State Park is the only central Iowa trout fishery. The trout are from the Big Spring hatchery near Elkader. Anglers who want to fish for the trout are required to purchase the trout privilege for \$11 in addition to an Iowa fishing license. The daily bag limit for trout is five and the possession limit is 10.

For more information, contact Dick McWilliams at 515-432-2823.

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DNR VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT SCIENCE CENTER

DES MOINES — More accustomed to slogging through rivers and pulling weeds from prairies than a glitzy awards banquet, Iowa volunteers enjoyed new Science Center of Iowa as they were recognized for their hard work at the fifth annual Volunteers in Natural Resources Banquet, on Nov. 12.

Trading outdoors labor for indoors learning, nearly 200 volunteers and guests gathered at the Science Center for lunch, speeches on volunteerism, an awards ceremony and admission to many of the center's attractions. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources hosted the event.

The banquet, entitled "Honoring Our Most Valuable Resource," recognized the more than 8,000 citizens who volunteered with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Keepers of the Land Volunteer program last year.

Donating more than 212,000 hours of service, the volunteers included scout troops who refurbished state parks, couples who served as campground hosts, weekend warriors who cleaned up rivers and more.

“Thank you for making our natural resources and our environment a priority in your everyday lives,” said DNR Director Jeffrey Vonk in an address to the volunteers. “It’s clear that you are citizens dedicated to our natural resources and it is truly impressive.”

The Keepers of the Land program handed out awards to outstanding volunteers in six categories. In addition, the DNR’s citizen water quality monitoring program, IOWATER, handed out awards in four categories. Officials from both groups gave thanks and congratulations to all volunteers and award nominees.

Jane Seaton, coordinator for the community development program, Main Street Iowa, gave a keynote address on “The Value of a Volunteer.”

The ceremony, like those volunteer efforts it honors, gives environmentally conscious citizens a chance to meet like-minded people, said volunteer John Thomas.

“I’m very interested in river travel and I know we have a pollution problem,” said Thomas, who volunteered with a river cleanup this summer. “I think it’s a good opportunity to hang around with people with similar interests, and a chance to do something good.”

Groups and individuals from across the state took home Keepers of the Land awards:

- Kristopher Spoth, of Polk City, earned the Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award for his work leading a group of Boy Scouts in a prairie maintenance program at Big Creek State Park.
- Beth and Mark Proescholdt, of Liscomb, earned the Outstanding Individual Volunteer Award in honor of their 15 years of service researching hawks in Marshall County.
- The Lake Park and Holding Corporation, of Garwin, won the Outstanding Group Volunteer Award for their decades of service to Union Grove State Park, first as its founding organization in the 1940s and later as a volunteer friends group.
- Volunteers with the DNR’s Retailers Consumer Education Program (RCEP) earned the Outstanding Large Project Volunteer Award for their work on a statewide survey of more than 600 businesses. The group investigated whether Iowa retailers were displaying proper educational materials about household hazardous materials.
- Employees at Rock Creek State Park earned the Outstanding DNR Staff Award for their assistance to the Rock Creek Lake Alliance volunteers. Staff included Robert

Steele, Roger Thompson, Mike Patterson, Bonnie Meyers, Marlon Galloway, Jeff Koplín and Chris Peck.

IOWATER handed out the following awards:

- The IOWATER Volunteer of the Year award went to Lloyd and Gaylan Crim in honor of their four years of service monitoring streams in Boone County.
- The IOWATER Professional of the Year award went to Tammy Turner, a Bremer County Conservation Board naturalist who organized the state's largest water quality sampling event.
- The IOWATER Classroom of the Year award went to Mike Skopec and his North Tama High School Advanced Biology Class, a group that investigates Wolf Creek's water quality every year.
- The IOWATER Event of the Year award went to Grant Wood Area Education Agency and their Enhancing Education through Technology initiative. In this program, teachers and students from eight school districts learned about water quality and other science topics during a student showcase at the University of Iowa this May.

All the award winners, nominees and guests heard about new opportunities and services offered by the Keepers of the Land program. Director Merry Rankin told the assembled volunteers about new short-term opportunities, an on-line events calendar and other ways to find volunteers and volunteer events. See www.keepersoftheland.org for details.

For more information, contact Merry Rankin at (515) 281-0878 or at Merry.Rankin@dnr.state.ia.us.